

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

This Amendment and Response (the “Amendment”) is submitted in response to the final Office Action dated June 9, 2009 (the “Office Action”). Claims 14-32 are pending in the application. Claims 14, 20 and 27 are in independent form.

By this Amendment, as outlined above, claims 14-18, 20, 27 and 28 have been amended and new claims 33 to 35. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found in the originally-filed specification at, for example, paragraphs [0011], [0013] and [0024] and in Figure 4, which shows an elongated space between the guard bar and the platform. It is believed that no new matter has been added. Following entry of this Amendment, claims 14-35 remain pending in the application.

II. THE CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112 SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In the Office Action, claims 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph (“Section 112”) as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The Examiner asserts that the “scope of claims 15-19 is vague because it is not clear exactly what method step of manufacturing a wet shaving system is being claimed therein. Claims 15-19 do not have a positive method step recitation for manufacturing a wet shaving system.” (*Office Action*, page 2.) In response, as outlined above, claims 15-19 have been amended to recite a positive method step. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Section 112 rejection be withdrawn.

III. THE CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In the Office Action, claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) (“Section 102(b)”) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,167,625 to King *et al.* (hereinafter “King”). The rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

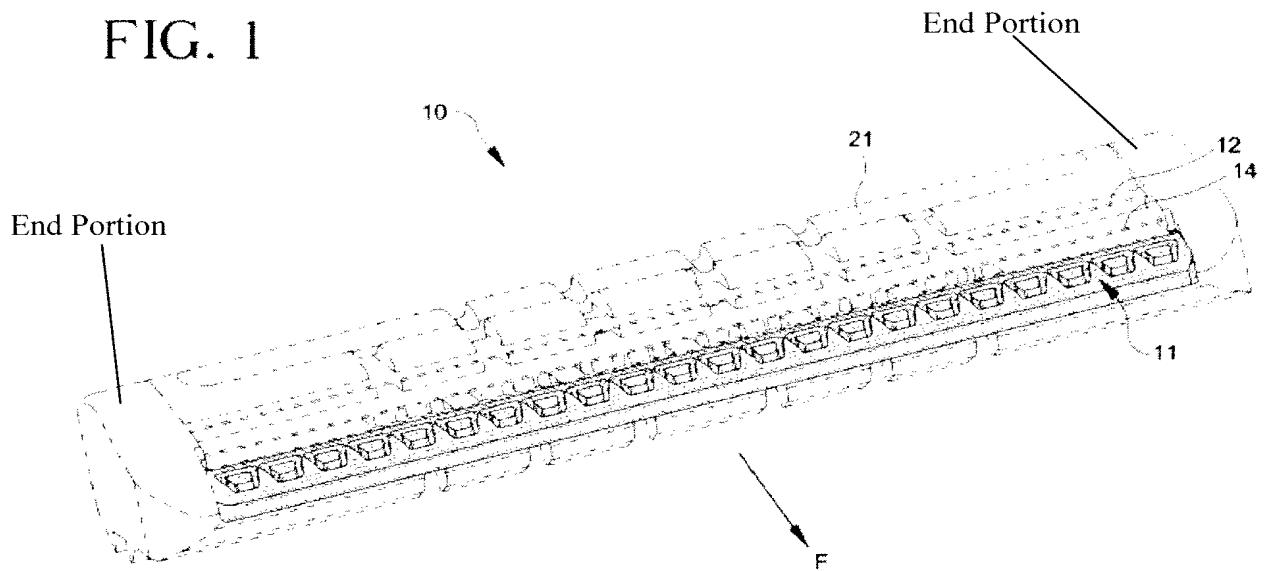
Claim 20 is directed to a wet shaving system comprising “at least one blade, a platform and a guard bar having two ends and positioned forward of the at least one blade and parallel to the blade cutting edge, *said platform having parts molded over said ends of said guard bar and wherein an elongated space is provided between the guard bar and the*

platform." Applicants respectfully submit that King fails to disclose or suggest such a wet shaving system.

In the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that King discloses a wet shaving system having a platform and identifies elements 16, 18, 20 and 22 in Figure 2 from King. (*Office Action*, page 3.) Additionally, the Examiner asserts that King also discloses a guard bar and identifies element 11 in Figure 2 as the guard bar. *Id.*

Further, in referring to Figure 1 of King, which has been annotated and is reproduced below, the Examiner contends that "said platform (16, 18, 20, 22) [has] parts molded over said ends (3) of said guard bar (11) as claimed." *Id.* Lastly, in the "Remarks" section on page 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that "King clearly states the razor cartridge 10 is "insert molded" (see column 3, lines 53-55) by injecting plastic in the forming mold (see column 4, lines 5-9). Thus, the end portions as applicants annotate at page 7 of the amendment [reproduced below] are formed of 'plastic' as there is no mention otherwise." (*Office Action* at page 8.)

FIG. 1



Applicants respectfully disagree that King discloses a platform (as identified by the Examiner) having parts molded over the ends of a guard bar. First, King fails to disclose or even suggest how the end portions are formed, what they are made from and how they attach to the razor cartridge. Further, just because King discloses that the razor cartridge is insert molded by injecting plastic into a mold and does not include any disclosure relating to the specifics of the end portions, it does not follow that the end portions "are formed of 'plastic'"

as there is no mention otherwise" as the Examiner contends. Further, based on the King disclosure, it would not be inherent that the end portions are made of plastic and that they are formed from molding parts of the platform over the ends of the guard bar. For example, because there is no disclosure relating to the specifics of the end portions, the end portions may be metal caps that are simply press-fit onto the ends of the guard bar.

Further evidence that King fails to disclose a platform having parts molded over the ends of the guard bar is that King discloses,

[i]n accordance with generally known insert molding processes, the blades 12, 14 are positioned in a cartridge forming mold, and plastic, preferably polypropylene, is injected to form seat 20, cap 16, spacers 22, and guard 18 and, in doing so, secure the blades as shown. The guard 18 is molded so as to form the recess 29 extending across the front surface of guard 18, including a horizontal ledge 36, a vertically extending rear wall 37, and a top ledge 36a, such that the recess 29 is partially inset into the guard 18 as shown in FIG. 2. Insert molding to form razor cartridges per se is generally known and therefore need not be described in detail here. For an example of a suitable insert molding process, see U.S. Pat. No. 5,141,694. *After the cartridge unit has been thus molded, the skin-contacting element 11 is insert molded so as to fill the recess 29.*

(*King*, col. 4, lines 5-19) (emphasis added). The Examiner also acknowledges the differences i between the claimed process steps and the process steps in King on page 5 of the Office Action stating,

[t]he difference between the process of King et al. and the claimed invention resides in the sequence of the method steps. Specifically, in King et al., the platform is formed first with a recess (2) in which the guard bar (11) is then insert molded to fill the recess (see column 4, lines 17-19). The claimed method has the sequence reversed (forming the guard bar first and then molding the platform over the ends of the guard bar).

Therefore, the platform (16, 18, 20 and 22) in King is molded first and *then, after* the platform is molded, "the skin-contacting element 11 is insert molded so as to fill the recess 29." Thus, because the platform in King is molded first and then the skin-contacting element is attached to the previously-molded platform by insert molding, it is impossible for the skin-contacting element to have portions of the platform molded over its ends.

Thus, King does not teach or disclose a "platform having parts molded over said ends of said guard bar" as claimed in claim 1. In addition, King also fails to teach or disclose that

the razor cartridge includes an elongated space between the guard bar and the platform as claimed.

“A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.” *M.P.E.P. § 2131* (quoting *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed Cir. 1987)). Accordingly, because, as discussed above, the sections of King relied upon by the Examiner at least do not provide for a wet shaving system with a “platform having parts molded over [the] ends of [the] guard bar” or a wet shaving system “wherein an elongated space is provided between the guard bar and the platform,” the Section 102(b) rejection must fail as a matter of law. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 is not anticipated by King and request that the Section 102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

IV. THE CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN

In the Office Action, claims 21-23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) (“Section 103(a)”) as allegedly being unpatentable over King in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,998,347 to Schächter (hereinafter “Schächter”); claim 24 is rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over King; claims 14-19, 26-28 and 31 are rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over King in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0208907 to Brown, Jr. *et al.* (hereinafter “Brown”); and claims 28-30 and 32 are rejected under Section 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over King in view of Brown, and further in view of Schächter. The rejections are traversed for at least the following reasons.

A. Claims 21-23 and 25 are Patentable Over King in View of Schächter

Claims 21-23 and 25 depend from independent claim 20, which was shown in Section III above to be patentable over King. In particular, King fails to disclose or suggest a wet shaving system comprising, *inter alia*, a platform and a guard bar where “said platform [has] parts molded over said ends of said guard bar” or a wet shaving system “wherein an elongated space is provided between the guard bar and the platform,” as recited in independent claim 20. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Schächter fails to cure the deficiencies of King.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that claims 21-23 and 25 are patentable over King and Schächter, either taken alone or in combination, and are therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

B. Claim 24 is Patentable Over King

Claims 24 depends from independent claim 20, which was shown in Section III above to be patentable over King. In particular, King fails to disclose or suggest a wet shaving system comprising, *inter alia*, a platform and a guard bar where “said platform [has] parts molded over said ends of said guard bar” or a wet shaving system “wherein an elongated space is provided between the guard bar and the platform,” as recited in independent claim 20.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that claim 24 is patentable over King and is therefore allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

C. Claims 14-19, 26-28 and 31 are Patentable Over King in View of Brown

Claim 14 is directed to a process for the manufacture of a wet shaving system comprising the steps of “providing a guard bar having two ends; positioning said guard bar in a mold cavity for said platform; and *molding at least part of the platform by injecting plastic in the mold cavity, wherein said at least part of the platform is molded over said ends of said guard bar during the process of molding the platform.*” Applicants respectfully submit that King fails to disclose or suggest such a process.

As disclosed in the present application,

during the process of molding the plastic platform, and while the mould is still open, a guard bar having two ends is inserted inside one of the mould parts at the appropriate location, the two ends of the bar being uncovered and exposed to plastic. Then the mould closes, and plastic is injected in it. The ends of the guard bar are then covered with the plastic forming the platform or part of the platform and thus fixedly attached to the platform of the shaving system.

(*As-Filed Application, ¶ [0024]* (emphasis added).) Accordingly, in the present shaving system, molding of the platform and molding of at least part of the platform over the ends of the guard bar are performed at the same time in a single process.

In contrast, to the presently-claimed process, King discloses,

[i]n accordance with generally known insert molding processes, the blades 12, 14 are positioned in a cartridge forming mold, and plastic, preferably polypropylene, is injected to form seat 20, cap 16, spacers 22, and guard 18 and, in doing so, secure the blades as shown. The guard 18 is molded so as to form the recess 29 extending across the front surface of guard 18, including a horizontal ledge 36, a vertically extending rear wall 37, and a top ledge 36a, such that the recess 29 is partially inset into the guard 18 as shown in FIG. 2. Insert molding to form razor cartridges per se is generally known and therefore need not be described in detail here. For an example of a suitable insert molding process, see U.S. Pat. No. 5,141,694. *After the cartridge unit has been thus molded, the skin-contacting element 11 is insert molded so as to fill the recess 29.*

(*King*, col. 4, lines 5-19) (emphasis added). Accordingly, in King, the platform is molded first and then after the platform is molded, an extra molding step is needed to insert mold the skin-contacting element into the recess. Indeed, the Examiner confirms the Applicants' understanding of King in the Office stating, "in King et al., the platform is formed first with a recess (29) in which the guard bar (11) is then insert molded to fill the recess (see column 4, lines 17-19). (*See Office Action* at page 5.) Because the platform is molded first and then the guard bar is insert molded to fill the recess, King fails to disclose or suggest that "at least part of the platform is molded over said ends of said guard bar during the process of molding the platform."

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Brown fails to cure the deficiencies with King.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is not obvious in view of King and Brown and respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that independent claim 14 is patentable over King and Brown, either taken alone or in combination, and is therefore allowable. Independent claim 27 includes similar recitations to those discussed above for claim 14 and is therefore allowable for similar or somewhat similar reasons to those discussed for claim 14. Further, claims 15-19, 26, 32 and 33, which depend from claim 14, and claims 28-31, which depend from claim 27, are believed to be allowable as well.

CONCLUSION

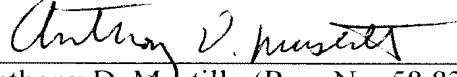
In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider pending claims 14-35 with a view towards allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (212) 326-3939 if a telephone call could help resolve any remaining issues.

Should any fees be required, please charge such fees to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 9, 2009



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